

Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Catholic Education Centre.

PRESENT

Members: Anita Arnold, Shawna Belcourt, Michelle Griepsma, Helen McCarthy, James Mellon, Clare Paterson, Kelly Smigielski

Absent (by motion): Melissa Gillespie, Arlene Godby, Emmanuel Pinto, Laura Quibell

Administration: Laurie Corrigan, Gerard Winn

Recorder: Theresa Greavette

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening prayer: Helen led the group in prayer.
2. Land Acknowledgment: I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe First Nations and that we live and work in the 1923 Williams Treaty area. I also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.
3. Approval of Agenda
Motion: The agenda be approved as presented.
Carried
4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.
5. Excusal from Attendance
Motion: Melissa Gillespie, Arlene Godby, Emmanuel Pinto and Laura Quibell be excused from attendance at the November 21, 2019 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried
6. Approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting.
Motion: The the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried
7. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - Action items that need to be implemented by SEAC as a result of the IPRC

- Process/IEP presentation.
- Updates regarding the committee's recommendations following the IPRC Process/IEP presentation.
 - o Gerard met with all the secondary school curriculum chairs and advised them that parents need to be given information about the transition to secondary school, including the contact for IEPs, IPRCs etc. This information can be explained and emphasized at the elementary transition meetings and the grade 8 information evening.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Remarks: Chairperson (Kelly)

The Chair and Vice-chair are not able to attend the meeting so Kelly stepped in as acting chair. The committee was reminded to send in reports on agencies for the meetings. The reports do not need to be events, they can be organizational updates, budget etc.

2. Remarks: Superintendent of Learning/Special Education

Laurie referred the committee members to the labour updates section on the Board Website and provided an overview to the committee.

We still await word from the Ministry about a number of policy announcements that are still waiting to be operationalized. Secondary school class sizes and e-learning, with what was are still being discussed. Today the Minister of Education indicated that the number of e-learning courses previously announced would change to 2 and that exemptions would be possible for students with special needs under guidelines that are to be developed. This announcement coincides with more public and parent consultations which are to take place. I will update this table when more information is available.

This week marks Caring and Safe Schools Week. It is run in keeping with Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. A number of activities are taking place in our schools - twitter is a great way to follow these events.

3. Update from Trustees

Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) is holding a free workshop on November 25th (D1 attached).

The Service Animals in Schools Administrative Procedure was recently approved by the Board and posted on our website.

4. Self-Regulation in Schools – Update (Jennifer Angelo)

Self-regulation is a process for understanding stress, managing energy and tension. It is individualized to the child and begins with the adult. There are 5 Domains: biological, emotional, cognitive, social, pro-social. There are 5 Processes: Reframe the behaviour, Recognize the stressors, Reduce the stress, Reflect and enhance stress awareness, Respond with personalized ways to support restoration and resilience.

Initiatives at PVNC include the Be Well Walk, Foundation Courses, Research project with Trent, Self-regulation Symposium, Funding for Self-regulation Schools (e.g. book

study's, equipment purchases).

5. School Based Autism Support Program Model of Delivery (*Steve O'Sullivan, Evelyn Leslie and Lisa Virtue*)

The pilot project at St. Anthony CES for students in the community diagnosed with ASD focuses on a functional classroom and developing life skills to encourage successful integration.

The program differs from the CASA program in that it is a full day program, it is school based (rather than regional), and there is no application process.

The benefit of this program is the students have relationships with everyone in the school (e.g. other students, teachers, etc), and this lessens the transition. This model cannot be imposed on every school; there must be a school need, the willingness of the community, and an appropriate classroom space. Much consideration was given to the location of the classroom to ensure it was close to the sensory room, washrooms, other program areas, and would make for easier transitions overall.

Like all classrooms, this classroom has routines, rules, recess etc. There are sensory areas in classroom for kids to have a break and work on sensory needs. The classroom is highly collaborative rather than dedicated one-to-one support. The goals for integration start with independence so that a student does not become dependent on a particular educator.

Each student in the program was previously referred to Lisa Virtue, Speech & Language Pathologist. Lisa trained a number of staff and continues to support the children in this classroom.

There are currently 6 students in the class and parents are communicated with daily via Seesaw. Success is measured by the children's success and the parents' perspective. If the program continues next year, it was suggested that a slower transition into the program (e.g. staggered start days for each student) would be beneficial. There are no grants for this projected, it is being piloted out of Board funds.

C. Discussion Items:

Next Steps from presentation:

What are the key learnings from the presentation?

- The Committee discussed the value of this program and the importance of promoting and maintaining it. Are there grants that we can explore?

D. Information Items:

1. Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) Workshop - Nov. 25 (See D1 attached)
2. [Ontario Autism Advisory Panel Report](#) (*Sharon Davenport*)

In spring 2019, the Ontario government engaged in a province-wide public consultation process which provided the government with feedback on ways to better support children and youth on the autism spectrum and their families. The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services also appointed a new 20- member Ontario Autism Program Advisory Panel tasked to review the results of information and data collected through the public consultations process and to provide advice to the government on

how to better support children and youth on the autism spectrum who have complex needs, including through additional direct funding. The Panel also provided advice on the design of new needs-based OAP.

Recommendations for a new needs-based Ontario Autism Program:

- Entering OAP - Improve access to diagnostic services; Offer supports while waiting for core services; Access to mental health services prior to core OAP services; Immediately assigned a Care Coordinator.
- Core Services - To include ABA, OT, SLP, some Mental Health and ACC.
- 3 Pathways of Support: Urgent, Mental health services and Early intervention (for children 6 years of age and under).
- Clinical Best Practice Guidelines
- Respite- Through Special Services at Home (SSAH) unless urgent
- Alignment with Ministry of Education: Education Advisory Committee by end of 2019; Continue Connections for Students services; Schools provide space and capacity for collaboration; Review: IEP's and implementation of PPM 140, PPM149, Regulation 181/98, Self-contained classrooms and soft inclusion, and Teacher Education and AQ courses; Expand Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with; ASD with specific training and PD for all staff.
- Alignment with Ministry of Health - Expand number of mental health workers in schools; Specialized training for Social Workers; Collaborate to co-fund, pilot and offer specialized services in OAP.
- Next Steps: Extend current OAP plans until families meet with new Care Coordinator; Development of Implementation Committee to assist government with prioritizing and moving forward with decisions by April 2020.

Reports from SEAC members:

Kelly Smigielski

Grandview Children's Centre

- On Nov 1-2, Grandview held a job fair for numerous therapy positions such as: Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapists, Behaviour Consultant, Autism Therapy Assistants and others. These positions have become available due to the recent change in contract between Grandview Children's Centre and the Community School Based Therapy Program.
- As of Jan. 1, 2020, Grandview will be providing services for school needs, equipment and therapy in addition to the existing services Grandview provides. As a result of this change, Grandview requires more therapy staff to provide adequate services to their clients.

Shawna Belcourt

Community Living Trent Highlands

- Adapted Bike & Recreation Show – November 14th (see D2 Attached)
- FASD Parent/Caregiver Group (see D3 Attached) – Peterborough (see D3 Attached)
FASD Parent Caregiver Group – Lindsay (see D4 Attached)
- FASD: Tools, Training and Discussion for Professionals, Parents and Caregivers (see D5 Attached)
- CICE Information Session – November 7 (see D6 Attached)
- Respite Now (see D7 Attached)
- PA Day Respite Supports (see D8 Attached)

Arlene Godby
Autism Ontario

- **Forgotten: Ontario Adults with Autism and Adults with Aspergers**
At this time, there is no consistent government policy regarding the need for supports and services for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), nor agreement of which ministry/ministries should be involved in funding those services. Most, if not all individuals with autism, require some care, supervision or support through their entire lives; many require a great deal. With this discussion document (see D9 attached), Autism Ontario will illustrate why the recommendations put forth matter to all Ontarians.

E. Old Business: None.

F. New Business: None.

G. Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 16, 2020

- Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Agenda:
 - PAAC Survey
 - PPM 149 – External Partnership Agreements
- Opening / closing prayer - Laurie and Arlene

Future Meetings & Presentation Topic:

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Tour/PD To be determined

G. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer: Helen closed the meeting with prayer.
2. Adjournment
Motion: The meeting be adjourned.

Carried